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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable LISA MURKOWSKI, a Senator from the State of Alaska.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's prayer will be offered by guest Chaplain Rabbi Ellen Bernhardt, Headmaster of Albert Einstein Academy, Wilmington, DE.

### PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

God, Creator of the universe, source of all goodness and mercy, we thank You for the bounty that is ours in this world. Help us to live so that we may be worthy of Your love as we strive to do Your will. You have created each one of us with uniqueness and implanted within us a spark of the divine.

We come from many backgrounds and ancestries, and we are bound together in these great United States of America with its cherished values and high ideals. Let us remember the gifts and responsibilities that God has given us as we strive to perfect the world in our days and for generations yet unborn.

We beseech You to give strength and wisdom to our Senators so that they will continue to do their work in this great Chamber and in every cubicle across this land. May they have the patience to listen to the voices of others, the vision to see within the hearts of each person, and the tenacity to continue to strive to make this world a better place for all humanity. And let us all say, Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable LISA MURKOWSKI, a Senator from the State of Alaska, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, May 20, 2004.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable LISA MURKOWSKI, a Senator from the State of Alaska, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,  
President pro tempore.

Ms. MURKOWSKI thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 60 minutes, with the first half of the time under the control of the majority leader or his designee and the second half of the time under the control of the Democratic leader or his designee.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Kansas is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. BROWNBACK. Madam President, this morning the Senate will conduct a

period of morning business for up to 60 minutes, with the first half under the control of the majority leader and the second half under the control of the Democratic leader. Following morning business, the Senate will resume consideration of the Department of Defense authorization bill. Senators WARNER and LEVIN will continue working on amendments today and rollcall votes are expected on amendments to the bill throughout the day. Senators will be notified when the first vote is scheduled.

The majority leader announced last night that the fiscal year 2005 budget resolution conference report may become available and we may consider that conference report before the week concludes. Votes will occur over the next 2 days. Members should plan accordingly.

### RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Nevada, Mr. REID.

### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Madam President, if the distinguished Chair would allow me a unanimous consent request, at the time the Democrats' morning business hour begins, I ask unanimous consent that Senator SCHUMER be recognized for 12½ minutes and Senator BILL NELSON be recognized for 12½ minutes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Kansas.

### MASSACHUSETTS COURT SAME-SEX MARRIAGE DECISION

Mr. BROWNBACK. Madam President, I take a few minutes of the leader's time to speak in morning business on one of the issues this week that has

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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